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INFO RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE 8035  
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RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 9319  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 6539  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 3663  
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE 0742  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 3932  
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE 5525  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 6285  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE 0989  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE 1187

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SENSITIVE  
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [BL](#)  
SUBJECT: BOLIVIA: JULY 9 MARCH ON EMBASSY SITREP #1 1030 EST

June 9 2008

SITUATION REPORT. This is the first of three situation reports planned for today. Subsequent reports will be sent at 1100 and 1400, EST. Should the situation warrant additional updates, Post will provide them as needed.

-EMBASSY COMPOUND: Compound is currently secure with no protesters.  
-USAID Building: Currently there are no reports of any plans to march to USAID.

11. (U) A scheduled march on the Embassy has begun, with crowds leaving government-stronghold El Alto and heading into La Paz as of 0900. Crowds are expected to arrive between 1000 and 1100. Currently the Embassy has additional police protection with tear-gas and crowd control armor. The CAC has been reinforced with steel shutters over the windows, and Embassy is at minimal staffing. Press reports indicate that miners in the crowd are throwing dynamite. They are also reported to be carrying tires, gasoline and molotov cocktails.

12. (U) Over the weekend government rhetoric continued to highlight the fact that former Minister of Defense Sanchez Berzain has received asylum in the United States fifteen months ago. President Morales made a public statement on June 8, asking that the USG "help so that Bolivian justice could proceed in an impartial manner" against Sanchez Berzain, adding "We would wish that the U.S. government, not only the ambassador, would help us to bring justice against those who caused so much damage in Bolivia: economic damage, damage to human rights. These individuals have to be judged." Morales continued, "It is not possible that some people with bad political histories could be protected by Philip Goldberg and the government of the United States." Cuban Ambassador Rafael Dauza, who was with President Morales on June 8, said that the USG provides asylum to "refugees from justice" not only from Bolivia, claiming that "imperialism" does not respect "the justice of the people."

13. (U) Emboff based in El Alto reports that El Alto city

councilman Roberto de la Cruz has called upon Altenos to march upon the Embassy and burn it, citing Sanchez Berzain's asylum case. Estimates of the number of marchers vary widely: some news reports suggest that there are currently fewer than 10,000 marchers, while other reports suggest higher numbers. Emboff reports that the participants are "angry."

14. (U) Embassy La Paz expects to send another sitrep at 1100, once the crowds have arrived. A third sitrep, either as events escalate or as the march dissipates, will be sent in the afternoon.

GOLDBERG